

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /069 W

----- 036412

R 081210Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8956

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 2509

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MORG, PINS, SU

SUBJ: CHANGES IN SUDANESE ARMY

1. PRESS REPORTED NOV 9 THAT, AS OF NOV 7, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAS "TAKEN OVER FUNCTIONS OF MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES" FROM GEN AWAD KHALAFALLA, WHO WAS RETIRED AND MADE "ADVISOR ON MILITARY AND AVIATION AFFAIRS" IN OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY. IN ADDITION, BRITISH EMBASSY HAS UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT MOHAMED NUR EL-SAAD, COMMANDER OF ORDNANCE CORPS, HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER ARREST. RUMOR HAS IT THAT FIRST VICE PRESIDENT GEN. MUHAMMED AL-BAGHIR WILL ULTIMATELY TAKE ON KHALAFALLA'S OLD JOB.

2. THERE NO INDICATION OTHER THAN TIMING TO SUGGEST DEVELOPMENTS ARE RELATED TO INCIDENTS AT RABAK (KHARTOUM 2508) OR ELSEWHERE; INDEED BRITISH EMBOFFS TOLD US KHALAFALLA HAD LONG WISHED TO RETIRE, AND NUR EL-SAAD WAS QUIET MAN NOT GIVEN TO POWER-SEEKING ADVENTURES. AS SAME TIME, WE WONDER WHETHER THEY DO NOT PERHAPS SIGNIFY UNDERLYING DISPUTE OVER POLICIES NEEDED TO SOLVE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS AND/OR OVER PROPER ROLE OF ARMED FORCES IN POLITICAL SYSTEM.

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3. PRESS OF NOV 9 ALSO REPORTED FORMAL TRANSFER OF
SOUTHERN COMMAND FROM KHALID EL-AMIN EL-HAJ TO JOSEPH LAGU.
INFO HAD BEEN WELL DISSEMINATED THROUGH KHARTOUM GRAPEVINE BUT
HAD NEVER ACTUALLY APPEARED IN PRINT BEFORE. GRAPEVINE ALSO
HAS IT THAT VICE PRESIDENT ABDEL ALIER MAY BE FORCED TO RESIGN,
TO BE REPLACED BY LAGU. IT IS RECALLED (KHARTOUM 2386) THAT
OPPOSITION TO ALIER WAS MENTIONED AS BEING A POSSIBLE FACTOR
IN THE JUBA DEMONSTRATIONS OF MID-OCTOBER.
BERLIND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, GOVERNMENT REFORM, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: Izenbel0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KHARTO02509
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740321-1064
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741160/aaaabymn.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: Izenbel0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2003 by Izenbel0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANGES IN SUDANESE ARMY
TAGS: MORG, PINS, SU, (NIMEIRI), (KHALAFALLA, AWAD), (NUR EL SAAD, MOHAMED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005